

Assessing the Role of Local Government Institutions in Ensuring Food Security in Boricha Woreda, Sidama Zone of SNNPRS, Ethiopia

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Abstract: The main objective of this study is to examine the role of local government in ensuring food security in Boricha woreda, Sidama zone of SNNPRS. Descriptive Survey research design was employed with mixed research approach which composed of both quantitative and qualitative data. The necessary quantitative data was collected from 204 households of three Peasant associations (PAs) in Boricha woreda on the bases of multi-stage sampling technique. The qualitative data were collected from FGDs, key informant interviews, open ended questionnaire and observation. Descriptive statistics, chi-square and Pearson's correlation analysis were used to analyze the quantitative data and quantitative data was analyzed by using narration and description. The results of the study revealed that the role played by local government institutions in the area of public service, social and infrastructural service development were not worth mentioning and results that the majority of farming households were living under food insecure status, and of which, most of them were facing food shortage throughout the year. This study also portrays that some demographic and socio-economic variables of respondents (household size, educational status, kinds of agricultural inputs and land size) determines food security status of households.

Key Words: Local Government, Food Security, Food Access, Food Availability, Boricha Woreda

Date of Submission: 06-05-2020

Date of Acceptance: 19-05-2020

I. INTRODUCTION

A significant proportion of the population in sub-Saharan Africa, including Ethiopia is food insecure and malnourished. Increasing food insecurity is one of the main concerns in many developing countries (FAO, 2006). Food crisis is more serious in SSA, where the problem of food security is intrinsically linked with poor agricultural techniques this is further exacerbated by poor governance and high population growth that has outstripped agricultural output slow progress in adoption of improved agricultural production technologies. Continuous use of traditional varieties of crop also recognized as major impediments to sustainable agricultural productivity in Africa. Access to saving and credit associations, extension contact and institutional failure influenced the adoption of improved seed (Seyoum et al. 1998). The study conducted by SIMLESA project in Boricha woreda, also found that adoption of improved seeds varieties reduces the incidence, depth and severity of food insecurity among farming households (SIMLESA, 2013).

The problem of food security in recent years has worsened and become one of the defining features of rural poverty in Ethiopia. Sidama zone is known by severe food security problem (MKC-RDA, 2009); different empirical researches were undertaken in Boricha woreda among this, the Fourth International APEDIA Conference on Sustainable Land Use in Africa 2012 examined the household food insecurity and hunger in Boricha woreda. The result revealed that about 54% of the farm households were facing mild to severe food insecurity, and from which, about 19% fall in households hunger from more than six to nine months of the year (APEDIA, 2013). Furthermore, Sidama zone early warning response and food security office reported that more than 37,837 chronically food insecure households are supported by the safety net program; Apart from this more than 20,000 farmers are supported by humanitarian organization under emergency food supply programs (SZARDB, 2012).

Since, this particular woreda (Boricha) has been frequently subjected to food insecurity different interventions taken by government and NGO's; the households also employ a range of coping strategies to respond to food insecurity and hunger, ranging from minimizing the number of meals and amount of food consumption to out-migration of household members during chronic food shortage; but the level of food

security did not show improvement (APEDIA, 2013). However, food insecurity is not only caused by environmental degradation like drought in the context of study area and it is not also solved by provision of food and other humanitarian aid but it goes beyond. As food security is about allocation of resources, thus the local government institutions play central role in steering the process towards ensuring food security.

The major grassroots level problems in Boricha woreda were poor infrastructural developments, subsistence agriculture characterized by low input and output, availability and accessibility of micro- finance, inefficient public and social service delivery, small size of farm land, dependency on food aid, low level of managerial and technical skills and inadequate training were identified as the major determinants of low level of productivity and food insecurity. While there have been a lot of studies done on the food security situation in Ethiopia (Devereux, 2000; Dessalegn, 2005; Alemayehu et al. 2008 and Aredo, 1994) and several studies explored in the study area (Nigatu, 2011; Asefach and Nigatu, 2006 and Yared, 2001) these studies fall short and none of them examine and investigate the potential role of local government Institutions in ensuring food security in the study area. This is the gap that the current study focuses on; at household and community level and wishes to add knowledge on the existing studies.

Therefore, this study is intended to identify the major role of local government institutions in ensuring food security through examining the causes of food insecurity; it was attempt to assess the dynamics of community coping strategies in the study area.

II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

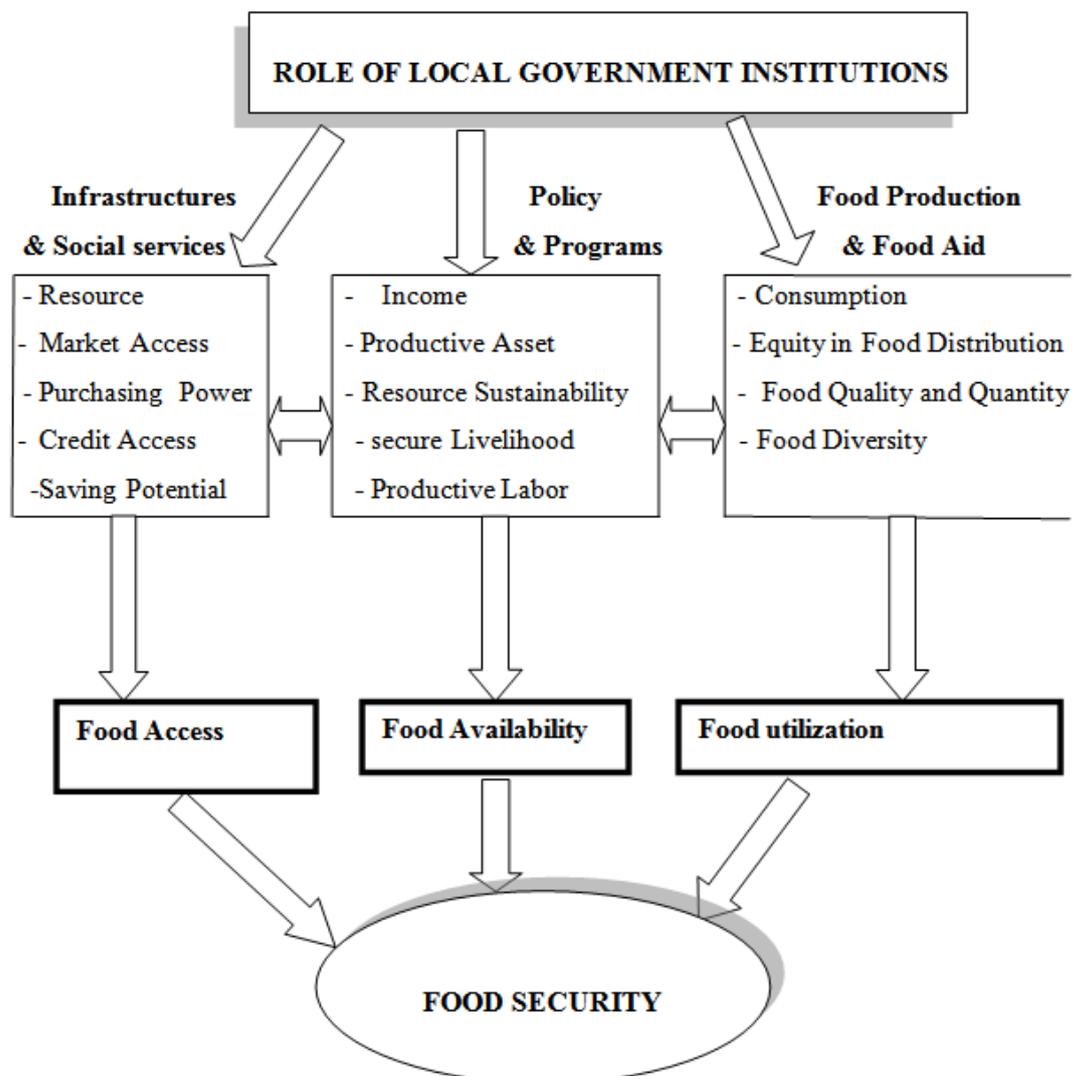


Figure -1: Conceptual Framework of the Study

Source: Researcher's Own Sketch based on Review of Literature

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Research Design

Descriptive Survey research was applied in this study. The unit of analysis for the study was household and data were collected from the respondents as primary data. Mixed Research Approach composed of quantitative and qualitative approaches were used in this study. Quantitative approach was used to analyze the data collected from the household respondents through Questionnaire and the Qualitative method was used to describe and narrate the information obtained through Interview and Focus Group Discussion.

3.2 Sources of Data

In order to obtain sufficient and reliable information, the study was focus on both primary and secondary sources of data. Information for the primary source was obtained by using household survey questionnaire, Personal Observation, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KII). Secondary data were obtained by using books, news papers, magazines, academic papers, reports of Zonal and Woreda offices of Sidama Zone.

3.3 Population of the Study

As far as population of the study is concerned, the required data was collected from Food security program coordinators from Agriculture and Rural Development of Boricha Woreda, Boricha woreda safety net program officers, the households of three sampled farmers association of Boricha woreda, model farmers, community elders, development agents and representative of non-governmental organizations.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

To determine sample size, *multi-stage* sampling technique was employed. At the *first* stage, of the total regions of the country, the SNNPRS, the *second* stage selection of zone (Sidama zone) and *third* stage selection of study area (Boricha woreda) were made by using purposive sampling; mainly on the bases of vulnerability to chronic food insecurity. *Fourth* stage, simple random sampling procedure was used to select Peasant Associations (PA). Of the total 42 PAs, based on the information from SZBoARD, three PAs (Dilla-Anole, Shello- Ellancho and Boro-Shebella) were randomly selected. *Fifth* stage, stratified sampling was employed to stratify the households from three randomly selected PAs. PSNP was used as a criteria for having three strata mainly because it clearly defines the objectives of the study and to include different group of households. Based on this the households (HHs of three PAs) were stratified in to three strata's such as beneficiaries of PSNP, non-beneficiaries of PSNP and better-off. Finally at the *Sixth* stage, systematic sampling was employed to select households from the three stratas; and the sample households' size was determined by applying a model given by Yemane (1967) as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n = Sample Size

N = Total Household Size

e = Acceptable Level of Error

Therefore, the sample size, $n = \frac{4,732}{1 + 4,732(0.07)^2} = 204$

Finally, every 23th HHs was selected maintaining proportionate size rule for the three PAs. This results in 204 sample sizes for the actual study as indicated in table 1

Table- 1: Sampling Frame

No	Peasant Associations	Total HHs	Sample Size
1	Dilla-Anole	2,040	88
2	Shello- Ellancho	1,381	59
3	Boro-Shebella	1,311	57
Total		4,732	204

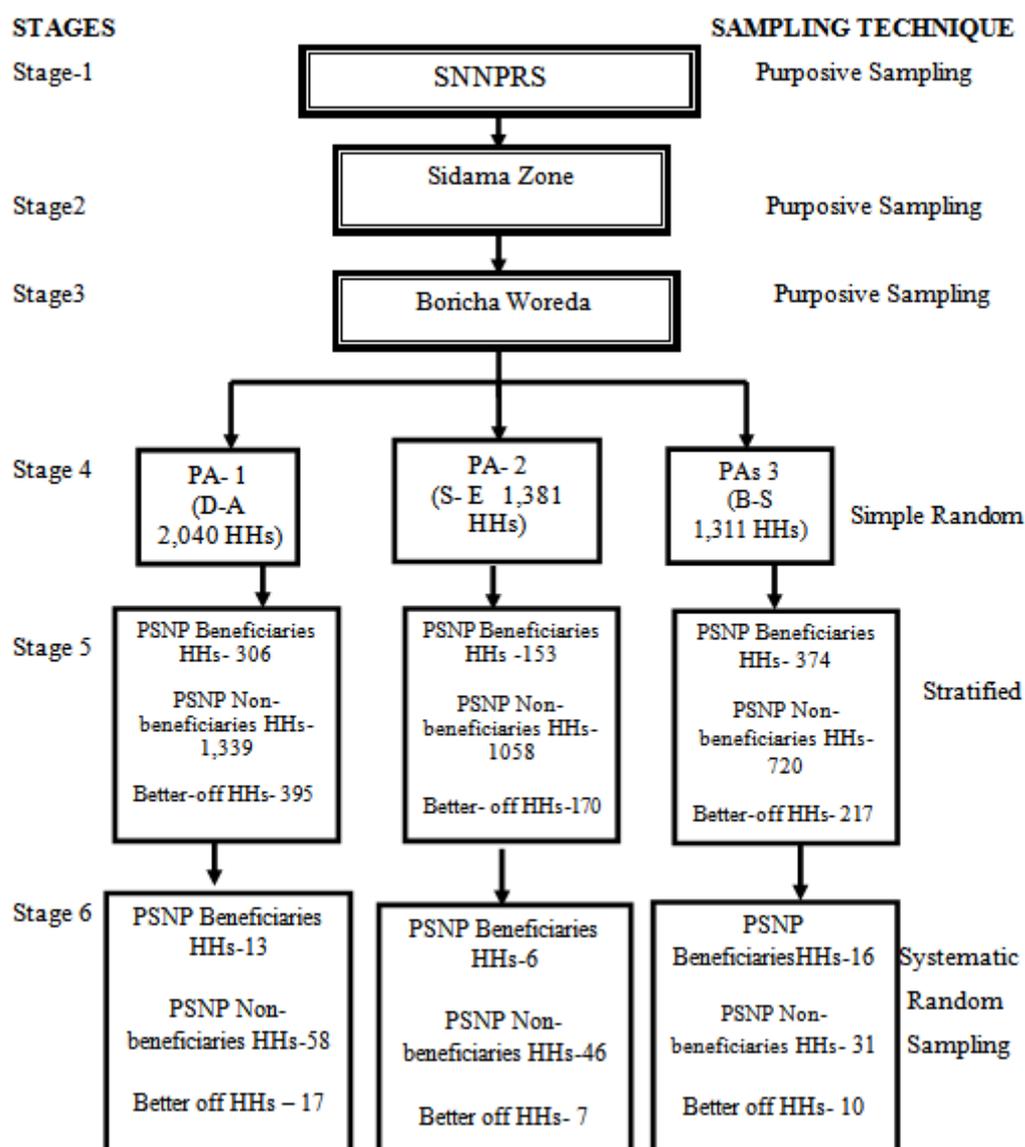


Figure-2: Sampling Procedure

Source: Researchers' Own Sketch

Note: PAs = Peasants' Associations, PSNP= Productive Safety Net Program, HHs = Households, D-A = Dilla- Anole S-E = Shello- Ellancho B-S = Boro- Shebella

3.5 Tools and Techniques for Data Collection

Multiple data gathering techniques were employed; different and integrated approaches of data collection tools were prepared, pre-tested, edited and applied. Structured survey questionnaire, Personal Observation, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) Key Informant Interviews (KII) were the principal means of data gathering tools for the study. The instruments are discussed separately as given hereunder:

3.5.1 Questionnaire

Both close-ended and open ended research questions were designed. The survey questionnaires were prepared, pretested and revised based on the objective of the study. The questionnaire were include the information on households size, land ownership and size, types of agricultural inputs, public service provision, social services, source of household income, public participation, infrastructural facilities and issues related to local government institutions and food security.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

To get qualitative information and to triangulate the data which were obtained through the household questionnaire, three FGDs were conducted with the sampled PAs (one FGD for each sampled PAs) with 24

member of participants drawn from the sample PAs (Eight participants per FGD) were formed. Participants of the FGDs were composed of model farmers, community elders, development agents and poor farmers. Checklist was also prepared which had covered the issues such as availability and status of infrastructure facilities, access and availability of public services and other issues related with food security and the role of local government institutions.

3.5.3 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Key informant interviews were conducted with two Food Security Program Coordinators from Agriculture and Rural Development Department of Boricha Woreda, three Development Agents (DAs) from the three sampled PAs (one DA from one PA), three NGO representatives and two knowledgeable community members. A total of 10 informants were interviewed. The in-depth discussions were facilitating the triangulation of information obtained from the survey and focus group discussions.

3.6 Variables of the Study

This study had dependent and independent variables. Dependent variables used for the study was ensuring food security. The independent variables were the role of local government institutions. Availability, accessibility and utilization of public services, saving and credit organizations and other social services, infrastructural development and other public service provisions like provision of fertilizer and improved seeds, extension services, leadership commitment and skills as well as public participation were used to examine local government's role for ensuring food security.

3.7 Method of Data Processing and Analysis

The collected data were analyzed and interpreted by using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Data from questionnaires were edited, coded and tabulated by using SPSS version 25.0 statistical package. Descriptive statistical techniques like frequencies and percentages were calculated and results were presented using univariate and bivariate tables. Association and correlation between variables were computed using Chi-Square (X^2) and Pearson's correlation coefficient. The qualitative data was transcribed and narrated to supplement the data.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 The Role of Local Government Institutions in Ensuring Food Security

Lack of responsive local government and appropriate development policies were one of the main factors which results vulnerability to food insecurity. In addition to this, Failure of local governance in the provision of appropriate public services and government policy failures are the other responsible factors for the recurrence of food shortage or poverty and underdevelopment in Ethiopia. Therefore, government policy and responsive local governments are expected to play a significant role in influencing farm households' food security.

Due to absence of single indicator for examining the role of local government institutions in ensuring food security, different indicators are required at various levels. So that this study examined the local governments' role based on the three dimensions of food security. They are availability, accessibility and utilization of public services; stakeholders' participation, leadership commitment and policy interventions as well as policy measures are also used as indicators for local government institutions' role for improvement of food security status of the households in the study area.

4.1.1 The Role of Local Government Institutions in the Provision of Social and Public Services

Role of local government institutions in provision of social and public services encompasses a variety of civil society institutions, including resource user's groups and citizen oversight bodies linked to public service delivery units or local service delivery networks. It also includes community development committees, indigenous institutions and traditional authorities, voluntary associations, and non-governmental self-help organizations to manage how resources are mobilized and how service delivery is organized and managed by organizations (service producers) that transform resources into the public infrastructure and services available to people, communities, and private sector actors.

In order to see the role of local government institutions in ensuring food security; the relationship between public service provision and food security assessment like transportation access, availability of transportation facilities, availability of saving and credit organizations and types of PSNP supports were discussed in the following table.

Table 3: Relationship between Households Food Security and Local Government Institutions Service provisions

Item		Household Food Security Assessment			Total
		Food Shortage Throughout the year	Occasional Food Shortage	No Food Shortage and No Surplus	
Transportation access	Yes	7	1	5	13
	No	25	166	0	191
Total		32	167	5	204
Availability of Transportation Access in one Year	6-8 Months	14	75	3	92
	9-11 Months	10	65	2	77
	Through out the year	8	27	0	35
Total		32	167	5	204
Access to Saving and Credit Services	Yes	12	118	4	134
	No	20	49	1	70
Total		32	167	5	204
Type of PSNP support	FFF	24	23	0	47
	FFW	3	15	0	18
	CFW	0	1	0	1
	Agri. Inputs	0	5	2	7
	None	5	123	3	131
Total		32	167	5	204

Source: Computed from Primary Data

Where: PSNP- Productive Safety Net Program, FFF- Food for Free, FFW- Food for Work and CFW- Cash for Work

- **Transportation Access:** Table 3 shows that almost all respondents, 196 respondents who have no access to transportation service face food shortage throughout the year, occasional food shortage or no food surplus while only seven respondents who have transportation access face food shortage. The above table indicates, strong relationship between access to transportation service and food security; more over it shows that improved access to transportation services decreases the severity of food insecurity.
- **Availability of Transportation Access in one year:** It is vivid from the table data that there has been a strong relationship between food shortage and months for transportation access those months of transportation access increases from 6 to 12 months the incidence of food shortage decreases from food shortage throughout the year to no food shortage no surplus.
- **Access to Saving and Credit Associations:** As indicated in table 3, of the 32 respondents who experienced food shortage throughout the year the majority (20) were respondents who have no access to saving and credit associations, of the total 167 respondents who experienced occasional food shortage 118 were respondents who have saving and credit associations near to their locality and from five respondents who experienced no food shortage and no surplus 4 were respondents who have saving and credit associations near to their locality only 1 respondent were experience no food shortage and no surplus.
- **Types of PSNP support:** In the case of the relationship between type of PSNP support and food shortage, among the respondents that receives PSNP in the form of Food for Free (FFF) 24 experienced food shortage

throughout the year, 23 experienced occasional food shortage and none of the respondent experience no food shortage no surplus; among respondent who receives Food For Work (FFW) three experienced food shortage throughout the year, 15 experienced occasional food shortage throughout the year and none of respondents experienced no food shortage no surplus; among the respondents who receives Cash For Work (CFW) none of respondents experience food shortage throughout the year, only one of respondents experience occasional food shortage, none of respondent experience no food shortage no surplus; among respondents who receives agricultural inputs none of them experience food shortage throughout the year, 5 of them experience occasional food shortage and two of them have no food shortage no surplus and finally among the respondents those who did not receives any kind of support five experienced food shortage throughout the year, 123 experienced occasional food shortage and three experienced no food shortage no surplus. As it can be inferred from the table date that type of PSNP support influences households food security that provision of none food items relatively improved the households' severity to food insecurity rather than provision of food items; so that only provisions of food for free (FFF) does not guarantee households food security. Furthermore it is clear from the foregoing analysis that none of respondents experienced food surplus throughout the year.

The above cross tabulation (table 3) shows that there is the relationship between food security assessment and the mentioned roles of local governance (transportation access, months of transportation access, availability of saving and credit associations and PSNP support). However it does not show how significantly food security and local governance roles are correlated. Thus, in order to see whether food security is correlated with local governance roles or not.

Table 4 portrays the relationship between food security assessment and the mentioned roles of local government institutions (transportation access, months of transportation access, availability of saving and credit associations and PSNP support). However it does not show how significantly food security and local governance roles are correlated. Thus, in order to see if food security is correlated with local government institutions' roles, the Pearson's correlation coefficient was performed. The following table presents the result.

Table-4: Correlation between Food Security Assessment and Availability and Accessibility of Public Service

Assessment of Food Security	Transportation Access	Transportation Access in One Year	Availability of Saving and Credit Association	PSNP Support
r value	.371(**)	.076	-.248(**)	.325(**)
Sig.	.000	.280	.000	.000
N	204	204	204	204

** Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4 depicts that there has been strong correlation between food security assessment and most of the reported role of local government institutions. The correlation between food security assessment and transportation access($r= 0.371$, sig. 0.000); the correlation between food security assessment and months for transportation access ($r= 0.076$, sig= 0.280); the correlation between availability of saving and credit association and food security assessment($r= - 0.248$, sig.0.000); the correlation between food security assessment and PSNP support ($r=0.325$, sig= 0.000). This indicates that there has been a positive and significant correlation between food security assessment and most of the reported role of local government institutions. This further indicates that there has been positive and significant relation between food security and transportation access, food security and months of transportation and food security and type of PSNP support. However, the availability of saving and credit associations and assessment of food security were found negatively correlated. This indicates that, the increased availability of saving and credit associations decreases the households' food security status.

4.1.2 Infrastructural Facilities and Accessibilities

The preliminary investigation that was undertaken by the researcher indicated that the common problems of local government institutions in the study area are related with access to infrastructural facilities. Thus, the respondents were asked to indicate infrastructural accessibility in relation with considering there households food security status.

Table 5: Chi-square Test Results of Households' Food security Assessments and Accessibility to Infrastructural Facilities

Item	Category	Household Food Assessment			Total		Chi-square test	
		Food Shortage Throughout the Year	Occasional Food Shortage	No food Shortage No Surplus	Frequency	Percent	X ²	P-value
Main Market	1-3	8	21	1	30	14.7	3.629	0.459
	4-7	9	58	2	69	51.5		
	8-11	15	88	2	105	33.8		
	Total	32	167	5	204	100		
Agricultural Inputs	1-3	2	51	0	38	26	15.184	0.004
	4-7	11	27	5	53	55.4		
	8-11	19	89	0	113	18.6		
	Total	32	167	5	204	100		
Agricultural Extension Services	1-3	0	7	0	7	43.1	3.680	0.451
	4-7	11	74	2	88	53.4		
	8-11	21	86	3	109	3.4		
	Total	32	167	5	204	100		
Distance to	K.ms	Food shortage throughout the year	Occasional food shortage	No food shortage no surplus	Total		Chi-square test	
					Frequency	Percent	X ²	P-value
Saving and credits association	1-3	2	10	0	1	5.9	4.812	0.568
	4-7	9	23	0	29	43.1		
	8-11	15	58	2	75	36.8		
	12-15	6	76	3	88	14.2		
Total		32	167	5	204	100		
Health service	1-3	0	4	0	4	48.0	3.923	0.687
	4-7	2	18	1	20	40.2		
	8-11	15	66	0	82	9.8		
	12-15	15	79	4	98	2.0		
Total		32	167	5	204	100		
Source of drinking water	1-3	2	20	0	23	15.2	12.741	0.047
	4-7	3	29	0	31	38.2		
	8-11	11	62	0	72	35.3		
	12-15	16	56	5	78	11.3		
Total		32	167	5	204	100		

Source: Computed from Primary Data

- *Distance to Main Market:* Lack of efficient and effectively operating market is the major impediment to the development of food production. A good amount of surplus food is produced in some parts while there is deficit in others. It has experienced due to weak market links food cannot be sufficiently and easily transported to deficit areas from surplus producing ones. Many studies have shown that dysfunctional markets prevent farmer's access and aggravate food security problem. The chi-square results shows that there is no statistically significant association between food security and distance to main market ($x^2=3.629$, at $p > 0.05$).
- *Distance to the Sources of Agricultural Inputs:* The response obtained from respondents regarding agricultural inputs depicts that majority of household respondents travel long journey to get agricultural inputs and this highly affect food security of respondent household and majority house hold face food shortage. The chi-square test also confirmed that the existence of significance association between distance to source of agricultural input and food security of households ($x^2=15.189$, at $p < 0.01$). This further shows the households vulnerability to food insecurity increases with the increasing distance to source of agricultural inputs.
- *Access to Extension Services:* A cursory look in to Table 5 shows that more than half of the respondents have less access to agricultural extension service and to get the service it was expected to travel relatively long distance. This results food shortage for most of the respondents; only 5 households have no food shortage and

no surplus of food throughout the year. However the chi- square result shows that there is no significant relation between access to agricultural extension service and food security ($\chi^2=3.680$, at $p>0.05$).

- **Access to Saving and Credit Associations:** Concerning access to saving and credit association table 5 shows that 43 percent of respondent were travel 4 to 7 kms, 36.8 percent of respondents were travel 8 to 11 kms, 14.2 percent of respondents were travel 12 to 15 kms and only 5.9 percent of respondent travel 1 to 3 kms; this shows that almost all respondent have less access to saving and credit association so this results majority households to be victim of food shortage. Chi-square result shows there is no statistically significant relationship between access to saving and credit associations and food shortage ($\chi^2= 4.812$, at $p> 0.05$).
- **Access to Health Services:** Of the total respondents, 48.0 percent of respondents travel 1 to 3 kms, 40.2 percent of respondents travel 4 to 7 kms, 9.8 percent of respondents travel 8 to 11 kms, 2 percent of respondents were travel 12 to 15 kms to avail health care services. This shows that majority of respondent households have better access to health services.
- **Access to Drinking Water:** Table 5 indicates that 38.2 percent of the respondents travel 4 to 7 kms, 35.3 percent of respondents travel 1 to 3 kms and 11.3 percent of respondents travel 12 to 15 kms to get drinking water. It is vivid from the above discussion, majority of household respondents travel long journey to get drinking water and this results most of household respondents in food shortage crisis. The chi-square results also confirmed that there is statistically significant relationship between access to drinking water and food shortage ($\chi^2=12.741$, at $p<0.05$).
- The provision of infrastructural facilities such as health institutions, water pumps, roads, saving and credit association in rural areas contributes positively to the improvement of livelihoods of the rural people and enhancing food security as well. During field observation it was observed that health institutions commonly exist in all selected farmer associations. Other infrastructure such as water pumps for the provision of safe drinking water, saving and credit associations, agricultural extension services and all weather roads have not yet been established in some areas. While some facilities, for example equipped health centers can be accessed from the neighboring area, where households may be made to travel long distances to access the facilities as highlighted by one participant during focus group discussions:
We and our sons and daughter have to walk long distances to the town of Woreda Administration to access piped water, fertilizer, improved seed and equipped health services. In addition, due to absence of veterinary services, our cattle's were being affected by livestock diseases and also we are exposed to water born diseases due to absence of safe and clean drinking water.
- Access to safe drinking water still remains problematic in most areas of selected farmer association. One focus group participant had this to say:

4.1.3 Leadership Commitment to Ensure Food Security

The respondents were asked to indicate the position of leadership commitment for insuring food security. The following table presents the households response on the Leadership Commitment to ensure food security

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by their opinion on Leadership Commitment to ensure Food Security

	No	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Leadership Commitment to Ensure Food Security	1.	Very high	40	19.6
	2.	High	34	16.7
	3.	Moderate	26	12.7
	4.	Low	62	30.4
	5.	Very low	42	20.6
	Total		204	100.0

Source: Computed from Primary Data

A cursory look in to table 6 shows that of the total number of respondents, 19.6%, 16.7%, 12.7%, 30.4%, 20.6 % replied that they were on the opinion of Very High, High, Moderate, Low and Very Low commitment of leadership respectively. It can be inferred that the majority of the respondents were responded that there is low leadership commitment to take efforts towards ensuring food security in the study area.

4.2 Households Perception towards Service Provision of Local Government Institutions

The association between household's food security status and households assumption on effect of governance policy measures shows that households assumptions on policy measures taken by the government are positive and significantly correlated with food security status of the households. Since r- value is much

lower than the significance value of 0.5 ($r = 0.153$, at sig, 0.029). This implied that households have positive assumptions towards government policy measures and have positive effect to the improvement of their households' food security status. The following table presents the results of correlation analysis.

Table 7: Association between Household Food Security Status and Households assumption on Government Measures

Effect of Government Policy measures towards ensuring Food security	Households Food Security Status	
	r value	0.153(*)
Sig.	0.029	
N	204	

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

4.2.1 Households Reliance on Public Service Delivery

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they rely on government public service delivery or not. The following table presents response for this question.

Table-8: Distribution of Respondents by Reliance on Public Service

No	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Yes	74	36.3
2.	No	130	63.7
Total		204	100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

The data collected from the respondent shows that 36.3 percent of respondents had reliance on government and other stakeholders' provision of public service delivery while the remaining 63 percent of respondents had no reliance on public service delivery. This shows that majority of respondents had no reliance on public service delivery. Most of the key informants indicated that they have low confidence on the public service delivery because most of the time they did not give service at the needed time and delay in most of the response as well as they did not give similar treatment for similar problems.

4.2.2 Efficiency of Government Officials in ensuring Food Security

Table 9: Distribution of Household's Perception towards Skill of Government Officials

No	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Very high	29	19.6
2.	High	34	16.7
3.	Moderate	26	12.7
4.	Low	62	30.4
5.	Very low	42	20.6
Total		204	100.0

Source: Computed from Primary Data

As we can observe from table 9, Of the total respondents, 19.6 percent of respondents have opined that the government officials have very high skill, 16.7 percent of respondents were of the opinion that the government officials have high skills, 12.7 percent of respondents perceives the government officials have moderate skill, 30.4 percent of respondents perceives the government officials have low skill and the remaining 20.6 percent of respondents opined that the government officials have very low skill.

4.4 Food Programs, Policy and Policy Response of Local Government

Table-10: Distribution of Respondents by Food Policy, Programs and Policy Responses with Household Food Security Status

No	Food Programs, Policy and Policy responses		HHs Food Security Status				Total	
			Secure		Insecure			
			No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Household Groups	PSNP beneficiary	14	6.9	21	10.1	35	17.0
		Non-beneficiary	52	25.5	73	36	125	61.5
		Better-off	23	11.3	21	10.2	44	21.5
Total			89	43.7	115	56.9	204	100
2	Household Sources of Food	Own Production	56	27.4	52	25.5	108	52.9
		PSNP	17	8	28	14	45	22
		Borrowing/ Transfer	4	2	6	2.9	10	5.0
		Own /PSNP	10	4.9	22	10.7	32	15.6
		All sources	2	1	1	0.5	3	2.0
Total			89	43.3	115	56.6	204	100
3	Type Support of	Food for Free	1	0.49	20	9.8	21	10.29
		Food for Work	8	3.9	7	3.4	15	8.0
		Cash for Work	12	5.8	37	18.13	49	24.0
		Agri. Inputs	10	4.9	8	3.9	18	8.8
		None	59	28.9	42	20.5	101	49.4
Total			90	44.2	114	55.8	204	100
4	Food Aid Sufficiency	Yes	13	6.37	19	9.3	32	10
		No	14	6.8	19	9.2	33	16
		None	63	34.8	76	39.2	139	74
Total			90	44.2	114	56.8	204	100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

The above table shows that there is the relationship between food security status of households and most of the reported programs and policy responses of local government institutions.

- *Household Groups:* among the respondents who belongs from house hold groups of PSNP beneficiary (35), 21 of the respondents were food insecure while the remaining 14 respondents were food secured; beside from non-beneficiary of PSNP respondents (125), 73 of respondents were food insecure while 52 respondents were food secured and respondents from better-off group (44), 21 of the respondents were food insecure and the remaining 23 respondents were food secured.
- *Main Source of Food:* There has been also the relationship between households main source of food and households food security status. Among the respondents whose households source of food from own production (108), 56 of respondents were food secured and the remaining 52 respondents were food insecure; source of food from PSNP (45), 17 of respondents were food secure and the remaining 28 respondents were food insecure; source of food from borrowing and other transfer (10), 6 of respondents were food insecure and the remaining 4 respondents were food secured; households whose source of food from both own production and PSNP (32), 22 of respondents were food insecure and the remaining 10 respondents were food secured and on the other hand source of food from all source of food(3) only 1 respondent were food insecure and the remaining 2 respondents were food secured.
- *Type of Support:* In the case of the relationship between type of support and households food security status, among the respondents who benefited from food for free program (21), only 1 respondents were food secured and 20 respondents were food insecure; respondents from food for work (15), 8 of the respondents were food secured and 7 respondent were food insecure; respondents from cash for work (49), 12 of respondents were food secured and 37 respondents were food insecure; respondents benefited from support program of agricultural input (18), 10 of the respondents were food secure and 8 respondents were food insecure and from the respondents who did not benefited from any type of support programs (101). 59 of respondents were food secured and the remaining 42 respondents were food insecure.

- **Food Aid Sufficiency:** There has been also a relationship between food aid sufficiency and households' food security status. Among the respondent who receives sufficient food aid (32), 13 of the respondents were food secure and the remaining 19 respondents were food insecure and among respondents who did not receive food aid (139), 63 of respondents were food secured while 76 respondents were food insecure. The focus group discussion also reveals that most of PSNP beneficiaries especially beneficiaries of food for free program households experienced subsistence way of life and majority of them suffered by food insecurity when compered with none beneficiary households.

Table 4.23: Correlation between indicated Food Programs, Policy responses and Households Food Security Status

		Households Group	Household source of food	Types of support	of Food aid sufficiency in food
Households Food Security Status	r value	0.010	0.545(**)	0.387(**)	0.545
	Sig.	0.892	0.000	0.000	0.000
	N	204	204	204	204

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

As shown in Table 11, there has been significant positive correlation between households' food security status and majority of mentioned programs and policy responses of local governance. The correlation between households food security status and households source of food ($r = 0.545$, sig. 0.000); the correlation between households food security status and types of support ($r = 0.387$, sig. 0.000) and the correlation between household food security status and food aid sufficiency ($r = 0.545$, sig.0.000) were found to be significantly correlated. However the correlation between households food security status and households group ($r = 0.010$, sig. 0.892) were found not significant. This indicates that there has been a strong correlation between households' food security status and almost all of the mentioned programs and policy responses. This further indicates that households that were more dependent on food aid more prone to food insecurity.

In general, household food security status is found to be significantly correlated with households' source of food, type support and food aid. This indicates that the households that more benefited from food for free or food aid items were more exposed to food insecurity. However households those receive non food items were more likely food secured.

4.5 Community Coping Strategy towards Ensuring Food Security

Even if there is much to be done by government and non-government organizations all changes must first start with individual household and community decisions. As such, the promotion of sustainable food security depends on the adoption of behaviors and attitudes in everyday activities. Coping strategies have been acquired though the experience of recurrent problem that subjects the community to the problem of food security. Household respond to the food shortage in different ways depending on their level of capacity and severity it can be wage laborer, petty trading, divestment (sales of livestock, productive assets etc), reduced consumptions, temporary migration (i.e. moving to less hazarded places especially poor wealth groups, and when the situation is beyond the mass migration could take place. Table 4.24 is findings from the study area as coping strategy by each household.

Table4.24: Distribution of respondents by Coping Mechanisms

No	Coping Mechanisms	Frequency	Percent
1	Wage laborer	32	15.7
2	Petty trading	30	14.7
3	Selling household asset	91	44.6
4	Food aid from GOs/NGOs	15	7.4
5	Minimizing the amount of meals	36	17.6
	Total	204	100.0

Source: Computed from Primary Data

According to Table 12, for the majority of respondents (44.6 percent), the most common and early coping mechanism is selling households asset. This is probably due to fill basic need in short period of time. In the second place, 17.6 percent respondents use minimizing the amount of meals and extending the time.

However, this change subjects the poor households for physical weakness and increases the medical cost which exposed them more vulnerable to the effect. In the third and fourth place 15.7 percent of respondents use wage labor and 14.4 percent of respondents use petty trading respectively as an important coping mechanism for intensification of household income generating activities and the remaining 7.4 percent of respondents used food aid as one of coping mechanism.

V. CONCLUSION

Local government institutions play a significant role for the increasing problem of food insecurity. However poor governance, inappropriate policies, programs and strategies exacerbate food crisis in most of Sub-Saharan Africa countries. Even though the world leaders agreed to end up extreme poverty and hunger through Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)- Agenda 202 and also Ethiopia adopted the same but it is difficult to attain at the required time frame by most of developing countries including Ethiopia. Alike other SSA countries, food insecurity is a wide spread problem in Ethiopia especially in rural farming households. Despite the increasing role of local government institutions in various sectors, the study focuses on the role of local government institutions in ensuring food security in Boricha woreda of Sidama zone.

The finding of the study revealed that among the sampled households' the majority were in the middle age group. Most of the respondents were male headed and more than half of the respondents have extremely large size of family which influences the household's food security status. The survey result also shows that more than half of the respondents educated through formal and informal education. Moreover the survey result shows majority of respondents' assets were depleted and all most all of the respondents used local and mixed seeds. Most of respondents own small size of land which is below the national ratio.

The findings of the study indicates that the roles of local government institutions in ensuring food security with provision of public and social services shows, respondents those did not have access to transportation services, saving and credit association were highly vulnerable to food shortage and none of them experienced food surplus throughout the year. More over respondents who are PSNP beneficiaries in the form of food for free (FFF) were also highly vulnerable for food insecurity this was supported by the significant association of food security and transportation access, availability of saving and credit associations and PSNP support. In addition to the above, majority of the respondents in the study area experienced poor quality of road and only few respondents have access to safe drinking water. Regarding infrastructural accessibilities the findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents' experienced low access. The result of public participation and leadership commitment indicated that there is low or no participation in public decision making and most of the decision ends by top officials (top down approach) and also, leadership commitment were very low. Most of the findings in the descriptive analysis are in consistence with the result obtained from chi-square and Pearson correlation.

The study result also revealed majority of the respondents have positive perception on measures taken by government that can bring change for their household's food security status. This was supported by significant association between households perception on government measures and households food security status. On the other hand majority of the respondents did not rely on public service delivery and have low perception on the skills of government officials.

The study also revealed the existence of strong relation between type of food program and policy responses, that households who receives food aid are more food insecure than households who receive non-food or other productive items and this was supported by a significant relation and association of variables.

The study shows that majority of the respondents use selling of asset as primary coping mechanism. From mere observation of analysis, social, public and infrastructural service provisions (accessibility and availability to transportation service, saving and credit associations, type of PSNP support, market access, agricultural input, extension service and safe drinking water is an important role of local government institutions that determines the households food security status in the study area.

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Dr.S.Sivakumar, et. al. "Assessing the Role of Local Government Institutions in Ensuring Food Security in Boricha Woreda, Sidama Zone of SNNPRS, Ethiopia." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 25(5), 2020, pp. 46-59.